Stress Coatings for Large Scale Membrane Mirrors (Preprint)

Ryan Conk et al.

15 September 2006

Technical Paper

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Aflington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED (From - To)
15-09-2006	Briefing Charts	Mar-1-2003 to Aug-7-2006
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
Stress Coatings for Large Scale Membrane Mirrors (Preprint)		F29601-03-C-0040
		5b. GRANT NUMBER
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
		65502F
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
Ryan Conk	3005	
-		5e. TASK NUMBER
		DP
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
		BE
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
AFRL/DES		
3550 Aberdeen Avenue SE		
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-577	6	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
Air force Research Labora	()	
Directed Energy Directora	-	
51	LE .	44 CRONCOR/MONITOR'S REPORT
3550 Aberdeen Ave SE		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT
Air Force Materiel Comman		NUMBER(S)
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-57	AFRL-DE-PS-TP-2007-1006	

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for Public Release; Distribution is Unlimited.

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Published in Mirror Technology Days 2006, Albuquerque, NM, October 18-20, 2006. http://optics.nasa.gov/tech_days/index.html. GOVERNMENT PURPOSE RIGHTS

14. ABSTRACT

Finite element modeling and design need further adjustments, but have shown good correlation through successful results and actuator influence. Active boundary control effective in correcting mounting errors and other types of low order aberrations typically seen in membrane applications. Spherical aberration can be controlled (as required) thought varied stress coatings on the membrane. Improvements must be made to ensure no increase in surface roughness of membrane. Deposition rate and dwell time adjustments. Testing will continue at AFRL with inclusion of real-time DM secondary.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:		17. LIMITATION	18. NUMBER	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON	
		OF ABSTRACT	OF PAGES	Ryan Conk	
a.REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified	SAR	20	19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)





Stress Coatings for Large Scale Membrane Mirrors F29601-03-C-0040 FA9453-03-C-0185

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Brief what's on slide

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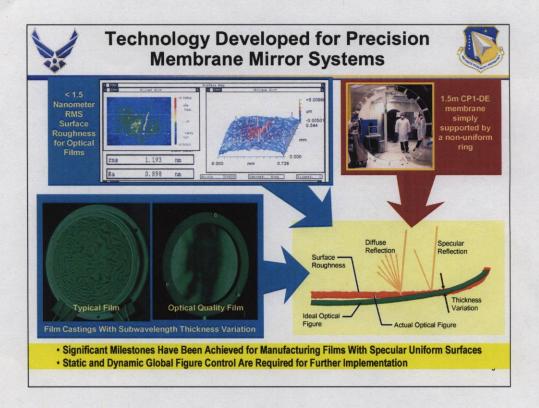


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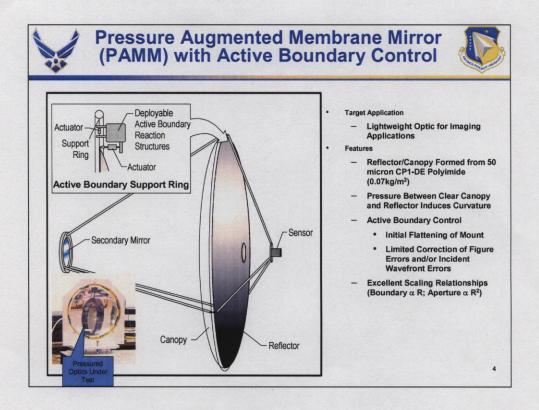


- Motivation for effort
- Pressure Augmented Membrane Mirror Concept
- 0.25m Prototype/Model Correlation
- Stress Coating Distribution
- SRS Testing of 0.75m Membrane Mirror
- AFRL Testing
- Summary and Conclusions

Brief what's on slide



Over the last several years, thin film membranes have been developed to provide an ultra-lightweight alternative to conventional large optics. During this development SRS has improved there production capabilities and have manufactured optical quality thin film membranes with subwavelength thickness variation.



This only solves the local surface variation requirements, we are still left with the global surface figures shape. The method for achieving the parabolic global shape has been to encapsulate the membrane and pressurize the mirror. This method has gotten us close to the shape, but far from the accuracies required for optical applications. For this project SRS investigated various methods to improve this global figure. The goal is to achieve a low enough error that an AO system would be able to correct the residual error.



PAMM Design Review

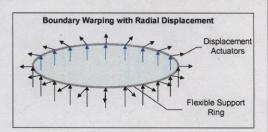


- Evaluated 5+ Boundary Control Configurations.
- Used Finite Element Analysis and IODA to Explore Correctability for Typical Aberrations
 - Spherical
 - Astigmatism
 - Coma
 - Random

Astigmatism can be corrected with normal actuators

Coma aberrations with radial actuators

Spherical still a problem



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SRS used FEM to determine the promary aberrations with the membrane mirror. These include spherical, astigmatism, coma, and other random aberrations. Since our main goal is still to reduce the weight as much as possible we can not have actuators directly behind the mirror. SRS determined that astigmatism can be corrected with normal actuators on the boundary of the membrane and that the coma aberrations can be corrected with radial actuators on the boundary.



0.25m Prototype

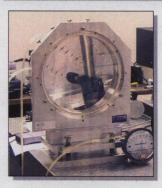


- 0.25m (10") clear aperture, focal length of 32-inches prototype mount fabricated.
- · Predicted pressure: 0.0585 psi.

$$p_d = \frac{1}{f} \left[h \left(s + \frac{E}{(1-v)} \times \frac{a^2}{16f^2} \right) \right]$$

- · Pressure required: 0.050 psi.
- Mount incorporates boundary actuators that allow radial and out-of-plane control (18 actuators each)
- This mount is used to correlate the FEM analysis to actual membrane mirror test.





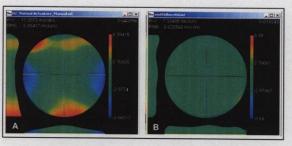
SRS first developed a 25m prototype membrane mirror with boundary controls to verify the FEM analysis



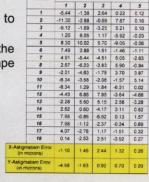
Astigmatism Error Correction



- All normal actuators were stroked in 20 microns to establish a bias.
- RMS surface error reduced from 3.234 microns to 0.628 microns.
- Micrometers for normal actuators will be used in the 0.75-meter PAMM, which will further reduce the shape error.



Astigmatism Aberration Corrected with Normal Actuators (Both Plots have first order spherical, focus, coma terms removed)



Reduced Astigmatism Error

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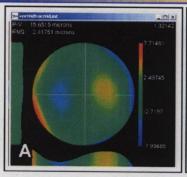
Using the normal actuators RMS surface error was reduced from 3.24 microns to 0.628 microns

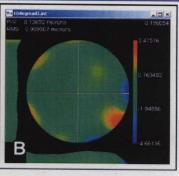
Micrometers were used on the 75cm PAMM to increase the sensitivity of the actuation



Coma Error Correction



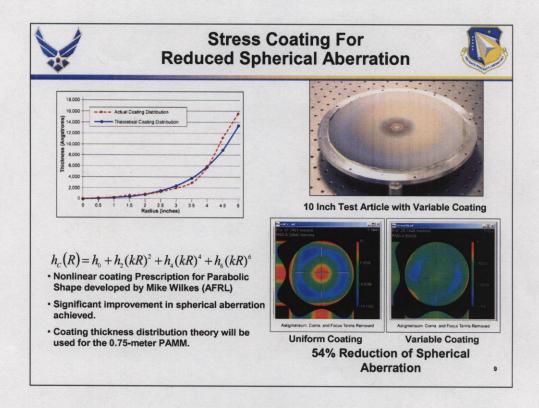




- Testing was further conducted using radial actuators.
- RMS surface error decreased from 2.417 microns to 0.909 microns, with main reduction in coma aberration.
- Electrostatic pressure will be used for radial actuation in the 0.75-meter PAMM, which will further reduce the shape error.

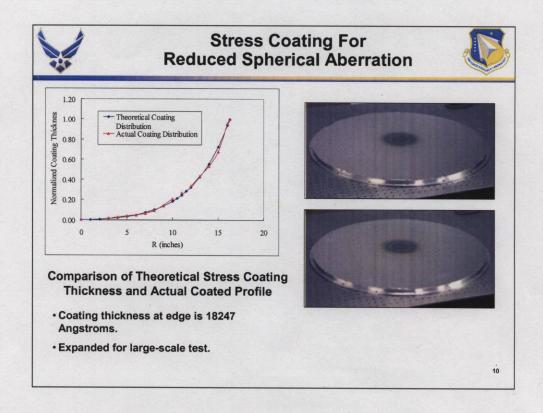
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Brief what is on slide



We are still left with the large spherical aberration. Mike Wilkes developed a formula specifying a nonlinear coating prescription to shape the membrane mirror into a parabolic shape

From the ten inch coating sample a 54% reduction in spherical aberration was achieved



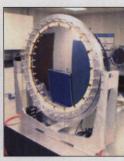
Here is the coating profile for the 75cm membrane and the actual measurement of the coating



Uniformly Coated Testing



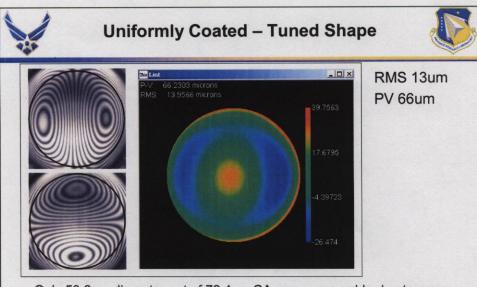




- Uniformly coated membrane mirror.
- Uniform opaque (~2000A) coating of VDA on front and back side of membrane
- Pressure set for focal length of 157cm (0.043psi)
- · Uniform mirror will provide baseline test data.
- Varied stress coating membranes will be measured with reduction in spherical aberration the key comparison.

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For the phase II, SRS delivered 1 uniformly coated membrane for a basis to evaluate the 2 variable thickness coated membranes



- Only 50.8cm diameter out of 72.4cm CA was measurable due to error
- OPD plot after normal tuning based on computer model actuator calculations
- No coma correction possible due to limited aperture measurement.

For the uniformly coated membrane a PV error of 66 um was measured with an RMS of 66um



1st Varied Stress Coating Testing



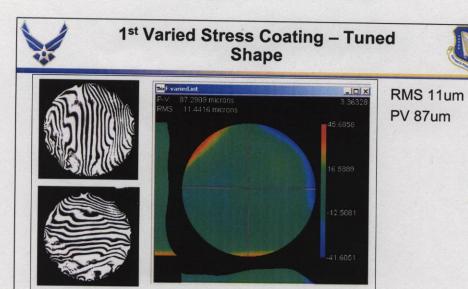




- · Varied Stress Coating.
- Uniform opaque (~2000A) coating of VDA on mirror side, varied stress coating on back side of mirror.
- Pressure set for focal length of 157cm (0.047psi)
- Varied coating notable on back of membrane. Thickness is essentially zero in center.
- Main purpose of varied stress coating is to control spherical aberration.

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Brief what is on slide



- · Full aperture is now available for measurement
- OPD plot after model aided tuning of normal actuators.
- RMS reduction of 65%, PV reduction of 57%.
- Boundary errors and slight coating roughness.

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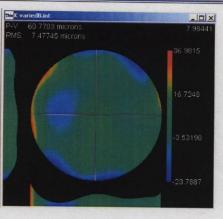
The measurements for the 1st varied stress coating showed an rms reduction of 66% and a P-V reduction of 57%



2nd Varied Stress Coating – Tuned Shape







RMS 7um
PV 60um
•Better overall tuning
on 2nd varied coating
using both normal
and electrostatic
actuation.

- OPD plot after model aided tuning of normal actuators.
- · RMS reduction of 82%, PV reduction of 76%
- · Again, boundary errors and slight coating roughness.

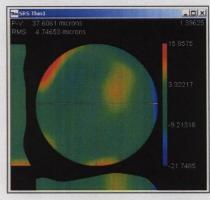
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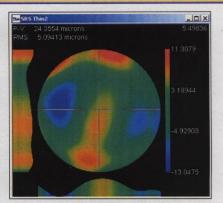
The 2^{nd} variable stress coating showed even better improvement with an 82% rms reduction and a 76% p-v reduction



Apertured Down Varied Coating Results







1st Varied, RMS 4.7um, PV 37um

2nd Varied, RMS 5um, PV 24um

 By reducing the measured aperture by ~15%, another reduction of RMS and PV of over 50%.

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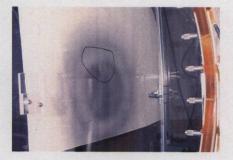
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AFRL Testing



- Large radius of curvature variations due to temperature gradient in lab
- · Tear-like defect in coating



Implement with AgilOptics MEMS-like AO system

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AFRL has begun its analysis of the pressure augmented mirror.

The goal is to first perform a surface characterization of PAMM and then determine if the AgilOptics deformable mirror that we have available can correct the residual errors

There is a tear-like defect in the coating that prevents us from using the center region of the mirror. Also there have been large radius of curvature variations due to the temperature changes in the lab. 100's of waves of deviation have resulted in an hour time span

We are identifying processes to stabilize the temperature in the lab and we plan to take interferometer measurements shortly to quantify the residual aberrations.



Summary



- Finite element modeling and design need further adjustments, but have shown good correlation through successful results with actuator influence
- Active boundary control effective in correcting mounting errors and other types of low order aberrations typically seen in membrane mirror applications
- Spherical aberration can be controlled (as required) through varied stress coatings on the membrane.
 - Improvements must be made to ensure no increase in surface roughness of membrane. Deposition rate and dwell time adjustments.
- Testing will continue at AFRL with inclusion of real-time DM secondary.

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State the summary